



Santa Barbara Sister Cities Board

Annual Report

Santa Barbara Sister Cities Board

2009 - 2010

June 30, 2010



The Santa Barbara Sister Cities Board consists of six sister cities: Puerto Vallarta, Mexico; Toba, Japan; Weihai, China; Dingle, Ireland; San Juan/Manila, Philippines; and our new sister city, Kotor, Montenegro. Attached in the Annual Report are the reports from each sister city committee.

The board was involved in the following activities during the past year.

July 29-August 1, 2009

Sister Cities International Conference in Belfast, Northern Ireland; attended by: Takako Wakita, Chair of the Board; Gil and Marti Garcia plus two members from the Puerto Vallarta Sister City Committee; and two guests from Puerto Vallarta.

Takako Wakita, Chair, visited Dingle, Ireland, one of the Santa Barbara's sister cities.

August 25, 2009

Kotor, Montenegro, was approved as the new sister city at the Santa Barbara City Council meeting.

September 2, 2009

George Lily was welcomed at the board meeting as a new board member representing Kotor, Montenegro, Sister City Committee.

September 11, 2009

The 4th annual September 11th Peace Concert was held at the Unitarian Society. The Santa Barbara Music Club co-sponsored it. Around 130 people participated.

October 22, 2009

The 18th Annual Sister Cities Celebration in honor of United Nations Day at the Cabrillo Pavilion was held. The honored guests included Catherine Dishion, Santa Barbara Chapter President, United Nations Association; and Santa Barbara Mayor Marty Blum. The entertainment was a Greek Children's dance and a Japanese folk dance. About 130 people attended.

February 13-20, 2010

Delegation from Kotor, including the Mayor, visited Santa Barbara.

May 5, 2010

A new sister city proposal was submitted by the Patras, Greece, group.

Respectfully submitted by,

Takako Wakita, Chair
Santa Barbara Sister Cities Board

Attachment: Annual Report

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ANNUAL REPORT
Santa Barbara Sister Cities Board
July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010

Santa Barbara/Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, Sister City Committee

1. SPECIAL PROJECTS

- a. Puerto Vallarta needy Kinder School – Fifth year of supporting same school
- b. Law Enforcement Exchange:
 - Outbound – Puerto Vallarta (December 2009)
 - Inbound – Santa Barbara (July-August 2009)
- c. Clinica de Rehabilitación Vallarta-Santa Barbara, A.C. – donated eight scholarships to Puerto Vallarta patients for rehabilitation treatment
- d. MarBorg Industries donated a diesel trash compactor truck to our sister city of Puerto Vallarta (May 2010)

2. YOUTH PROJECTS

- a. Student Exchange:
 - Inbound to Santa Barbara (July 15-25, 2009)
 - Outbound to Puerto Vallarta (March 2010)
- b. Sister Cities International Showcase of Young Artist (April 2010)

3. CULTURAL EXCHANGE

- a. I. Madonnari – Street Painting – return to Puerto Vallarta for Fourth Annual Event (December 2009)
- b. Puerto Vallarta artist participates in Santa Barbara's 24th Annual I. Madonnari Festival (May 2010)
- c. Festival Sponsor of I. Madonnari (May 2010)
- d. Sponsor I. Madonnari square for Santa Barbara High School students (May 2010)

4. SOCIAL EXCHANGES & FRIENDSHIP GATHERINGS

- a. Visitation to Santa Barbara by Puerto Vallarta (July/August 2009)
- b. Visitation to Puerto Vallarta by Santa Barbara (November/December 2009)
- c. Conference attendance by members:
 - 53rd Annual Conference – Belfast, Northern Ireland (July/August 2009)
 - USMSCA International Conference – Austin, Texas (August 2009)
 - US/Mexico Sister Cities Association – Cathedral City, CA (February 2010)
 - SoCal Sister Cities, Long Beach, CA conference (February 2010)
 - Mexico/US Cuidades Hermanas Association– Puerto Vallarta, Mexico (May 2010)
- e. Reception at Business First Bank – Showcase of Young Artist (April 2010)
- f. Sister City Pizza booth at Cinco de Mayo Festival (May 2010)
- g. First Annual Cinco de Mayo Charity Golf Fundraiser, to benefit local at risk youth programs, held at Glen Annie Golf Club. (May 2010)
- h. Strawberry Social (June 2010)
- i. Attended US/Mexico Sister Cities Assoc. Annual BBQ (June 2010)

5. JOINT COMMUNITY PROJECTS

- a. Sister Cities – September 11th Concert (September 11, 2009) – fourth Annual
- b. 18th Annual Sister Cities Reunion in Honor of United Nations Day (October 2009)
- c. Cinco de Mayo Festival – Volunteering

6. SPECIAL MENTION

- a. Cash donation to community based organization Santa Barbara High School Don Riders
- b. Donate food from cancelled May Friendship Dinner to firefighters of the Santa Barbara "Tea Fire"
- c. Vanessa Crawford, student from Santa Barbara receives SoCal Scholarship in Long Beach (February 2010)
- d. Cash donation to community based Youth Mariachi Group
- e. Donation of sports equipment and tee shirts to DIF sponsored orphanage
- f. Cinco de Mayo Dinner honoring the life of Evie Treen, long time Sister City volunteer.

Santa Barbara/Toba, Japan, Sister City Committee

Our reporting year began too quietly last year, as our four Japanese students were forced to withdraw from the summer exchange in August 2009, due to the H1N1 virus crisis. We offered our Santa Barbara students from 2009 first choice of going on the program in summer of 2010, and all of them, chaperone included, enthusiastically agreed.

In November of 2009, we chartered a small bus to go to Los Angeles and to the Descanso Gardens Japanese festival. Our group enjoyed a lovely afternoon of garden viewing, food, and flower exhibitions. We agreed that we must try to organize a visit to a Japanese garden in at least one lovely season each year.

Our ShinNenKai New Year's meeting was headlined this year by a duo of Japanese Shakuhachi and American Indian flute players, who were possibly showcasing the two instruments side-by-side for the first time in America. We enjoyed a great catered meal by Fresco catering, which put a tasty Pacific fusion twist on their offerings.

In March, we participated in Westmont College's Japanese Family Festival, which was put on to highlight their rare exhibit of the prints of 20th century Japanese print-maker Kiyoshi Saito as well as an exhibition of American Viewing Stones (Suiseki). We helped publicize the Tea House in the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, assisted with a kimono fashion show, and put on a short performance of Japanese folk dances.

Also this Spring our group undertook a joint sponsorship of three Japanese Tea-related lectures at the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden. The local Urasenke Japanese Way of Tea master, Madame Kyoko Kasai, brought to the Garden Mr. Sugita of AIYA "matcha" green tea importers to talk about its health benefits, followed by Dr. Glenn Webb who spoke about the history of the Way of Tea and Tea

houses, and our final talk, Mr. Kosaka of the Los Angeles Japanese American Cultural and Community Center, who spoke about the Japanese garden as a cultural means of understanding the space between man and nature.

Santa Barbara/Dingle, Ireland, Sister City Committee

In 2009 – 2010, Erin Graffy began organizing a trip to Dingle for those interested. A group visitation was being planned for the Spring of 2010, however, airfare and travel logistics were both cost prohibitive and impractical. In retrospect, a trip soon after the volcano activity in Iceland, including European travel delays, may have been problematic had a visitation taken place. The membership plans to re-group, hold meetings, and provide new officer information later in 2010 and 2011. Marianne Freeman (Dingle Representative) attends Santa Barbara Sister Cities Board meetings regularly and contacts Dingle members of local Irish activities, and also represented Dingle in the 9-11 Concert and assisted at the Annual United Nations Dinner event.

Santa Barbara/Weihai, China, Sister City Committee

In July of 2009, Dr. Peter Haslund led a group of twelve Santa Barbara area secondary teachers to Weihai for a two week stay subsidized by a grant from the Freedman Foundation. Santa Barbara educators met daily with Chinese teachers of English and their students, sharing teaching methodologies, helping Chinese instructors to hone their English skills, and bonding in mutual friendship. As a result of last summer's program, our partner school in Weihai has begun an initiative to send teachers to Santa Barbara to observe and assist in instruction of local students.

In September of 2009, after a much-appreciated, very productive tenure as Association President, Sadie Hall resigned and, in a series of meetings, the Association Committee was re-organized with Peter Haslund resuming the Presidency on an interim basis. Monthly Committee meetings were initiated and have continued, a new website was created, and the quarterly Newsletter was revived.

In December of 2009, Peter Haslund and former Mayor Blum met with executives at a TrueVision, Inc., a Santa Barbara based medical imaging company engaged in negotiations with Weihai's Weigao corporation to form a partnership for the manufacture and distribution of TrueVision products in China.

In February of 2010, the annual Association Chinese New Year Dinner was held at the China Pavilion restaurant with a sell-out crowd including new Mayor Helene Schneider.

In March of 2010, the Santa Barbara/Weihai Sister Cities Committee published a book, *Essays from a Learning Adventure*, authored by Committee members. It is available for purchase through our website at: <http://sbweihai.org/>.

In April of 2010, a delegation of government and business officials from Weihai visited Santa Barbara to confer with TrueVision, Inc, executives as well as Mayor Schneider, UCSB Chancellor Yang, and Committee President Peter Haslund.

In May of 2010, the Annual members meeting and banquet was held at the Empress Palace restaurant. Los Angeles based consulate officer from the People's Republic of China was the guest speaker.

Santa Barbara/Kotor, Montenegro, Sister City Committee

This past year was a productive year for the Santa Barbara/Kotor Sister City Committee.

In June of 2009, a successful fund raising dinner to fund the Culinary Academy for the Orphans of Kotor was held. Over fifty people from Santa Barbara and Los Angeles attended to learn more about the Sister City Organization, our relationship with Kotor, and to fund the academy for 2009.

In July of 2009, our first exchange program was held with six water polo players from UCSB traveling to Kotor for two weeks to train with the Montenegro Water Polo Team (World Champions in 2009).

In August and September of 2009, our presentation was given to the City Council. The Council adopted a Resolution which formally approved our relationship with Kotor as a Sister City.

In September of 2009, we held the opening of the Goran Milic Culinary Academy at The Institute For Children With Disabilities in Kotor, Montenegro. Eight students received three weeks of instruction from professional chefs in the basics of food preparation to prepare them for meaningful entry level employment in the hotel and restaurant industry.

In November of 2009, a successful fund raising dinner was held at Goran Milics' Divino Restaurant in Brentwood, California, to fund our activities for the year.

In February of 2010, a visit from Mayor Catovic and a delegation of distinguished civic and business leaders from Kotor arrived in Santa Barbara. The visit included meetings with our Mayor Schneider and business leaders and organizations in Santa Barbara.

In March of 2010, we arranged and funded the internship of three of the graduates of the Culinary Academy at the prestigious Marchesi Di Barolo Inn and Winery in Piedmont, Italy.

In April of 2010, our graduates entered in and won second prize in the Split cooking competition in Serbia. These experiences prepare them for meaningful employment at a time when many youth in Montenegro have difficulty finding jobs.

Santa Barbara/San Juan, Philippines, Sister City Committee

No report was submitted.